

## The Bradford Houses In Duxbury

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The land upon which the three Bradford houses were built in Duxbury in the vicinity of the corner of Tremont and Harrison Streets belonged to Col. Gamaliel Bradford of the Continental Army. He lived in a house the site of which was on the western side of Tremont Street.

The Colonel died in 1807 and the land was divided among his three shipmaster sons—Gamaliel, a lieutenant in the Revolution, built the present Bittering House in 1807 near the site of his father's home which was torn down. Gershom built across the street in 1808. And Daniel's home on Harrison Street was probably constructed in 1807.

Capt. Gershom Bradford, 1774-1844, sailed mostly in the European trade until he retired about 1820. In the ships *Mary* and *Industry* he sailed as mate with his older brother Gamaliel who was master. About 1800 during the Quasi war with France the brothers fought three engagements with French privateers in or near the Straits of Gibraltar and drove off the enemy in each case. As master, Capt. Gershom sailed in the brigs *Lydia Head* and *Mercury*.

Upon his death the house continued to be occupied by his widow (Sarah Hickling) and four daughters. Only one of the latter married—Maria Weston to Rev. Claudius Bradford—whose children were Lucia A. who married Rev. F. N. Knapp; Gershom and Laurence, both of whom were Cape Horn sailors in their youth and both became hydrographic engineers. Gershom for some ten years commanded vessels of the U. S. Coast Survey and Laurence was a volunteer naval officer in the Civil War.

Charlotte Bradford, second daughter of Capt. Gershom, was a distinguished war nurse. She performed unusually heavy duty on a steamer on Potomac River, bringing wounded soldiers from the Virginian battlefields to the Washington hospitals. She later became the matron of the soldier's home of the Sanitary Commission at the capital. She and her last surviving sister died in 1893 and the old home passed into the possession of Laurence, their nephew.

GERSHOM BRADFORD,  
June, 1937.